

## The Positive and Negative Impacts of Social Distancing on my Life by Megan McCarthy

Social distancing is keeping a certain amount of space, two meters, away from people outside of your home. It is to stop people being too close to each other, but why? The 29<sup>th</sup> of February the first confirmed case of corona virus was in Ireland. As the days went on more people became sick. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March all schools, colleges and childcare facilities closed. By now people had died from the Corona virus and the numbers were increasing. The government then ordered a load of rules to stop the virus from spreading. A big one was Social Distancing. We must keep two meters apart so no hugging, shaking hands or even standing beside someone. This is all very strange. For me there are positive and negative impacts of social distancing. I will start with the negatives.

I am an only child so when we were first told to stay at home and social distance, I found that I was very lonely. Only me, Mom and Dad at home. Thank God I have my dog Charlie. I also live a little bit outside the town so the only time I see people is when I am out walking Charlie. I am also lonely because I miss my Grandad and my Nanas but especially my Grandad because he has a bad heart. I really miss my grandparents. Every Friday evening, I would go to my Nana Eily's and we would have a takeaway together and a chat. On Saturdays I would go to Nana Maura's and Grandad. Grandad would help me practice my camogie skills. I cannot do this anymore.

I also actually miss school. I love meeting my friends and chatting and playing games at lunchtime. I have not met up with anyone from school since lockdown and social distancing. I also find it easier to do my work at school. now my teacher sends all my work by email and then videos on sea saw. I find it hard to stay doing schoolwork at home while looking out at the sunny days.

Another big negative for me is no sports. I play camogie and soccer but since all this started all our training sessions and matches have been cancelled. I have different friends on soccer and camogie club, and I miss them. I had great fun at training and going to matches. I really miss all this.

There are also some positives even though I feel there are more negatives. The first positive is that I am getting to spend loads of time with my Mom and dad. Both are not working now due to COVID 19. My mom has become my new teacher and my dad has become my new coach in soccer and camogie. I am

really enjoying spending time and having fun with them. I am also getting to spend loads of time with Charlie. He is my best friend and I love him very much.

I have also learnt new things while being at home. Mom had taught me how to bake queen cakes and banana bread YUM! I also helped to paint the shed and I have been planting flowers also with Mom. I have even planted my own strawberry plants. My next project is helping Mom to build garden furniture from pallets.

I hate getting up early in the morning because I must go to Bridges before school because Mom has gone to work. So, before all this I was getting up at 7 am but now I have gotten lazy and I do not get up until 10am most mornings. I can even do my homework in my pjs. Mom and Dad are also not as strict on my bedtime. I do love my bed.

There are loads of more positive and negatives to social distancing but for me there are more negatives. I cannot go to the beach or our mobile in Ventry. It is my 12<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday and I cannot have a party, but I suppose the best and biggest positive of social distancing is that I am keeping my family and myself safe. Mom says that everything comes to an end and that this will too, we just do not know when. I have a lot of questions like will we be back in school in September? and when will I get to make my Confirmation because it needed to be cancelled, another negative. Until we are all out of danger, we must stay home and observe Social Distancing.